

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original): A method of processing seaweed which comprises the following steps:
  - (i) treating seaweed with an alcohol having one to six carbon atoms to form an alcoholic fraction and an insoluble first seaweed residue;
  - (ii) separating the alcoholic fraction;
  - (iii) removing the alcohol from the alcoholic fraction to form a concentrate comprising biologically active low molecular weight compounds;
  - (iv) extracting the first seaweed residue with an aqueous solution at a pH of less than about 6 to form an aqueous first extract and an insoluble second seaweed residue;
  - (v) optionally concentrating the first extract; and
  - (vi) adjusting the pH of the resulting concentrated extract to a value in the range of about 5 to about 8 to obtain a first polysaccharide fraction comprising a mixture of laminaran and fucoidan.
2. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising treating the first polysaccharide fraction with ethanol to precipitate fucoidan and laminaran and separating the fucoidan and laminaran.
3. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising: extracting the second seaweed residue with water at a temperature of 40 to 100°C to form an aqueous second extract and an insoluble third seaweed residue.
4. (original): A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising: concentrating the second extract; and drying the concentrate to obtain a second polysaccharide fraction comprising a mixture of laminaran, fucoidan, and polymannuronic acid.
5. (original): A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising acidifying the second polysaccharide fraction to a pH not higher than 2.5 to precipitate polymannuronic acid; and separating the polymannuronic acid.

6. (original): A method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising dissolving the precipitate in an alkaline solution and precipitating a salt of polymannuronic acid with ethanol.
7. (original): A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising: neutralizing the supernatant after precipitation; and precipitating the neutralized supernatant with ethanol to form a second polysaccharide fraction comprising fucoidan and laminaran.
8. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 3 to 7~~ claim 7, further comprising treating the third seaweed residue with an alkali to form a third extract.
9. (original): A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising concentrating and neutralizing the third extract and precipitating with ethanol to obtain a third polysaccharide fraction comprising a salt of alginic acid.
10. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9, wherein the seaweed is a brown seaweed.
11. (original): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the seaweed is from a species selected from the group consisting of *Laminaria cichorioides*, *Laminaria japonica*, *Alaria marginata*, *Alaria fistulosa*, *Fucus evanescens* and *Undaria pinnatifida*.
12. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 11, wherein the seaweed is fresh or frozen.
13. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 12, wherein in (i), the seaweed is treated with ethanol at a temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.
14. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in (iv) the first seaweed residue is extracted from hydrochloric acid at pH of about 0.5-3.0, preferably 0.5-1.5.

15. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 3 to 7~~ claim 3, wherein the second seaweed residue is extracted with water at pH of about 2.0-5.0, preferably 3.5-4.0.

16. (currently amended): A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 15, wherein one or more of the extracts are sequentially concentrated by ultrafiltration on hollow fiber with pore size of 6-100 kDa.

17. (original): A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a salt of polymannuronic acid is formed by treating the precipitate of polymannuronic acid with a solution of a salt selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, ammonium oxalate, calcium hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide.

18. (original): The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a salt of alginic acid is formed by treating the third seaweed residue with a salt selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium bicarbonate, ammonium oxalate, calcium hydroxide and magnesium hydroxide.

19. (currently amended): Product obtainable by the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1.

20. (original): A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition, a food product, food supplement or a nutritional supplement comprising the product of claim 19 together with a diluent or carrier.

21. (canceled)